

Mr. Speaker, the Monmouth County AUSA chapter takes to heart and gives all they have to live up to their inspiring motto: "A Voice for the Army—Support for the Soldier." Given its current leadership and unyielding drive to serve in a manner consistent with its roots in the United States Army, there is little doubt that the chapter's ongoing work will lead to consideration for another banner in 2018 and in the years ahead.

I thank all the members of the AUSA Monmouth Chapter for their continued hard work, dedication, commitment and outstanding contributions in the service of America's men and women in uniform.

RECOGNIZING PEYTON SOPIARS
FOR HIS 1A STATE TITLE IN THE
TRIPLE JUMP

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peyton Sopiars, a sophomore from Galva High School, for earning the Class 1A title for the Illinois State Championship in triple jump for track and field.

Peyton Sopiars won triple jump gold with a leap of 45-0 3/4 to claim his title as state champion, and I would like to recognize Peyton for his tremendous accomplishment. Peyton's dedication and passion for his sport meant that he was determined to win gold. As a former athlete, I understand the amount of hard work and commitment to be awarded such a title. Peyton is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic. I am proud there is such young talent in our community, and to see him represent Galva throughout the state.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Peyton Sopiars on his title, and I join the rest of the community in wishing him every success in the future.

LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT EM-
PLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR 20
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mario Valdez, Jeff Peterson, Joyce Thomas, Tamra Oliver, Nancy Beran, Amanda Peterson, Brenda Wandling, Bessie Neal, Leslie McDowell, Bridgett Bullard, Cindy Haley, Alma Cruz, Cheryl Brimhall, James Nagai, Gloria Daniels, Lisa McKey, Tandra Burns, Pamela Berdou and Lisa Rose for their 20 years of service and dedication to the Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (CISD).

Each of these wonderful Lamar CISD employees have worked for the school district for twenty years. They were recently recognized by the school district for their dedication to our children and our schools. Their tenure and commitment to educational excellence is a true asset for our students and our region.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again

to these exceptional employees for 20 years with Lamar CISD. I thank them for their commitment to education and to our kids.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT
FRANK E. VERDUGO ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS RETIREMENT
FROM THE MILITARY AFTER 20
YEARS

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Frank E. Verdugo on the occasion of his retirement from 20 years of outstanding commitment through military service to this country. He is the son of Lydia Wibert, former City Councilwoman in Fontana.

Staff Sergeant Verdugo has had a remarkable career with our armed forces. He began his military career with the U.S. Marine Corps, serving from 1994–1998. He went on to serve in the Army Reserve from 1998–2002, where he was based in San Antonio. He transitioned to full time service when he entered the Army on August 1st of 2002 for his second time on active duty. Like many brave and selfless individuals, he did so as a result of the events that transpired on September 11, 2001.

Throughout his career, Staff Sergeant Verdugo has been assigned to a full range of important roles and has been stationed in many locations around the country including Fort Lewis, Fort Knox, Fort Bliss, and Fort Benning. Shortly after joining the Army, he was deployed twice to Iraq, from 2003–2004 and 2006–2007.

While Staff Sergeant Verdugo has immeasurable achievements and awards that speak to his character, perhaps the most significant contribution and legacy he has made is by helping train the next generation of leaders. He was part of the Army's first Stryker Brigade at Fort Lewis and was assigned as a Stryker instructor at Fort Knox. Because of Staff Sergeant Verdugo's experience, he served in several critical leadership roles while at Fort Bliss, where he tested new equipment and networks for the Army, and at Fort Benning, where he was a fire range trainer.

Staff Sergeant Verdugo has selflessly given of himself to this country while raising a family. He is married to Maria E. Verdugo and is the father of four children.

As Staff Sergeant Verdugo's long and honorable military career comes to a close, he is beginning a new chapter in his life. He is currently pursuing his Bachelor of Science in Homeland Security from Vincennes University, further illustrating that while he may not be in the military anymore, his commitment to working hard on issues like national security is enduring.

For his many years of selfless service to our nation, I would like to recognize and thank Staff Sergeant Frank E. Verdugo.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST-EVER
INTERNATIONAL NASH AWARE-
NESS DAY

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness about a silent killer that has quickly grown into a public health crisis endangering the lives of millions of Americans.

Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, known as NASH, is a metabolic disease that, if left untreated, can lead to non-alcoholic cirrhosis, liver failure, liver cancer, and even death. The disease is estimated to affect between 3 and 12 percent of all American adults—including as many as 70,000 of my constituents.

There are only a few physicians in Congress, and although our constituencies differ, we share a profound and personal connection to the individuals we serve. We also share an understanding that when a threat of this magnitude arises, we must take proactive steps to effectively diagnose and treat the disease.

The most difficult part is that NASH is "silent"; it does not present symptoms until late in the disease's progression. Most Americans with NASH in my district and across the country don't even know they have it.

There is no approved cure for NASH and no alternative to an invasive and painful liver biopsy to diagnose the disease, and researchers have yet to get a full understanding of what causes it. With more research and professional awareness, we can start to improve early detection and halt disease progression while waiting for approved effective treatments.

This past Tuesday, June 12, marked the first-ever International NASH Day. Medical experts in seven cities across the U.S. joined over 20 international experts in the field of NASH to educate potential patients and other interested stakeholders to increase awareness and improve health outcomes.

I ask my colleagues—physician or not—to remain vigilant and work to improve access to information about this disease, ensure access to healthcare, and provide adequate funding levels for research and care. It is the right prescription for a better, stronger, and healthier America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 200TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF
SHELBY, NEW YORK

HON. CHRIS COLLINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 14, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Town of Shelby, New York. The history of this town has been molded by resilient and innovative individuals who worked persistently to make Shelby the place it is today.

The Bicentennial presents an opportunity for the residents of Shelby to reflect on their fascinating history and to envision the endless possibilities of the future. In 1812, Joseph Ellicott, an agent for the Holland Land Company, purchased 700 acres of farmland in the